

Greece

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PART II

In conformity with the plan followed for the two preceding reports, we will now examine in this second part its humanitarian action in local conflicts which have occurred since the end of the war.

GREECE ¹

The programme for assistance to victims of disturbances in Greece, to which reference has already been made ², was carried on in 1951 by means of a further credit of 97,000 francs, made available by the ICRC from its own resources and cash donations received from abroad. In 1951 the ICRC delegation in Greece distributed over 85 tons of relief supplies (clothing, food, medicaments) representing about 240,000 francs in value. Five tons of rice sent in September were reserved for children and certain sick adults.

The delegates of the ICRC also visited, as in previous years, internee camps and prisons and distributed relief supplies.

On being informed that troops in conflict with the Greek State forces had taken prisoners, the ICRC endeavoured to get in touch with the leaders of these troops. Its efforts were successful, and by its intermediary thousands of members of families scattered over Greece and neighbouring countries were able to exchange news.

At the request of the Greek Red Cross the ICRC also helped to unit these families by applying to the Red Cross Societies of the countries concerned. It also solicited these Societies' help in behalf of Greek ex-servicemen who, although not appearing on

¹ For the repatriation of Greek children, see page 48.

² See ICRC Report for 1950, page 65.

official lists, were possibly resident in the said countries and desirous of returning to Greece.

PALESTINE — NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

For the first half-year of 1951 the ICRC made no change in its representation in the Near and Middle East. The delegates in Cairo, Beirut, Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv continued giving their assistance in countries where in spite of the armistice the situation had not become normal. The dividing lines, although no longer the fighting lines, nevertheless formed impenetrable frontiers.

It was often difficult to intervene in behalf of civilian internees in Israel territory, especially in the case of Arabs whose entry had been clandestine.

In Jordan it was possible to visit regularly and deliver parcels to 30 civilians captured during this period, 23 of them were repatriated to Israel through the good offices of the ICRC.

The four delegations of the ICRC continued to act as neutral intermediaries for the repatriation and transfer of persons wishing to join their families. In the first half-year of 1951 a total number of 157 persons were thus repatriated and transferred. During the same period the delegates of the ICRC transmitted 16,894 family messages and 468 requests for enquiries, and received 302 replies.

With regard to relief, the delegations of the ICRC dealt with the forwarding of 442 parcels of used clothing intended for Arab refugees, prisoners of war or civilians. They continued to organise food supplies for charitable institutions in Jerusalem (New Town); for the first six months 25,000 kg of foodstuffs (fruit, vegetable, cereals, etc.) were sent by regular monthly convoys across the lines.

It may be recalled that the ICRC Delegation in Jerusalem handed to the Palestine Arab Invalids Union prostheses of which the value was about 1,000 francs.

As the position became more stable, the ICRC was able to consider closing its delegations in Israel and Jordan. The first was closed on August 31 and the second on October 15. The